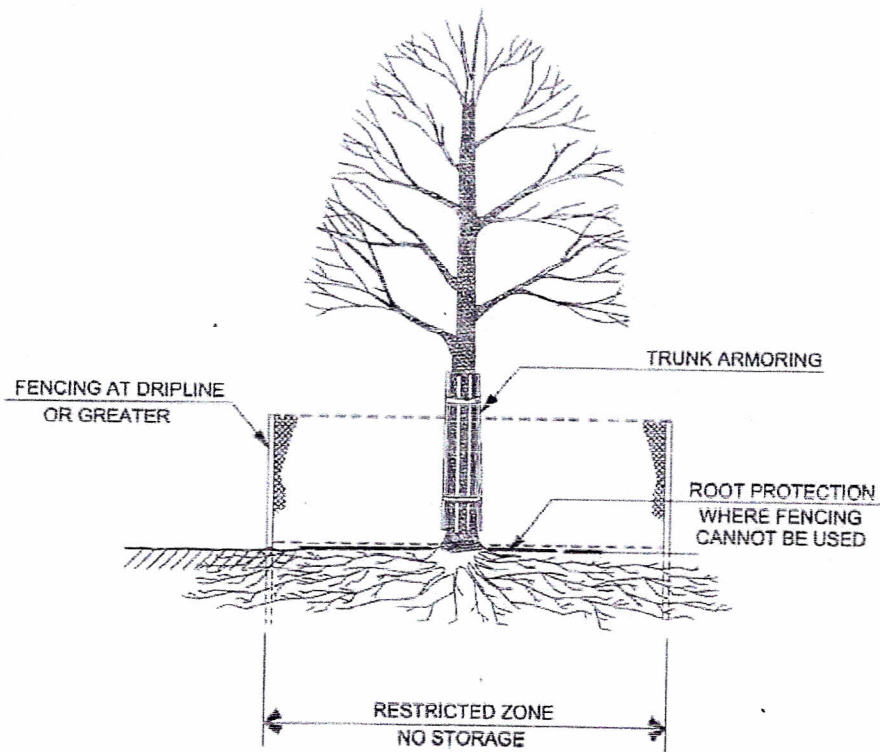


### 13.5.7 Construction Measures to Preserve & Protect Trees

Protecting plants is an important part of construction staging and operations. The following measures can be employed to protect plants during construction, as illustrated in Exhibit 13-7:

- Fencing should protect as much of the root zone area as possible. Fencing should enclose the entire root area of the plant or groups of plants to the edge of canopy. No activities should be allowed within this zone including no vehicular or foot traffic and no storing of machinery or supplies.
  - Pruning of broken branches or roots by a certified arborist.
  - Irrigation of disturbed roots.
  - Avoiding staging areas around trees and protect tree roots close to staging area.
  - Providing trunk armoring along with fencing if construction comes close to tree trunk.
  - Mulching root zones to keep soil moist and protect roots.
  - Providing wood chips where storage or foot traffic cannot be avoided: A layer of 4 to 12 inches of wood chip mulch can help prevent compaction of soil in the root zone.
  - Bridging the root zone area when it cannot be fenced off. Plywood or steel plates supported by railroad ties or on top of wood chip mulch to cover the root zone area can be used so that the weight of a vehicle or equipment is distributed over the sheeting, not the ground.
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**Exhibit 13-7**  
**Tree Protection**



Source: MassHighway